

Four new spiders from Southern Africa (Araneae)

by

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SYNOPSIS

Four new species of spider are described belonging to the families Argyropidae, Eresidae and Thomisidae. Two new genera are proposed, *Megaraneus* (Type, *M. campbelli* n. sp.) for an unusually large form related to the cosmopolitan genus *Araneus*; and *Paradonea* (Type, *P. striatipes* n.sp) for the South African species related to the genus *Adonea* which is now reserved for the North African forms, the type being *A. fimbriata* Simon from Algeria.

The Thomisid genus *Platythomisus* Dolesch. has only once previously been recorded from the South African subregion; six of the African species are known from east and west tropical Africa; the two new species here described, from as far apart as the East Cape and northern Zululand, provide evidence that they also occur at the southern end of the continent.

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Family ARGYOPIDAE

Megaraneus n. genus.

Resembling *Araneus* in the cephalothoracic and eye characters but differing in having large subangular tubercles on the abdomen. Although certainly a member of the Argyropinae it differs from all genera of the subfamily except *Caerostris* in its larger size. It has a superficial resemblance to *Caerostris*, which shares its habitat, in displaying individual differences of pattern on the dorsal surface of the female abdomen, figs. 1 *a-d*.

In the three pairs of blunt lateral tubercles on the abdomen it resembles some species of *Cyrtophora* and also some species of Gasteracanthinae, e.g. *Isoxya mossamedensis*, where the three bluntly rounded processes surmounted by a spine roughly correspond in position to the lateral tubercles of *Megaraneus*.

Cephalic and to a less extent the thoracic portion of the carapace roughened by a covering of minute round wart-like tubercles, diminishing anteriorly and disappearing between the eyes; the smooth round tubercles of two sizes, the smaller half the size of the larger and much more numerous, filling up the spaces between the larger tubercles; the smaller tubercles surmounted by a short thick blunt-tipped hair, the larger by a much longer seta some of the largest (in the region of the foveal depression) with a very long and attenuated seta apically. Dorsum of abdomen with a similarly granulated cuticle; in addition to the two pairs of larger round sigillae (muscle scars) about 50 much smaller, symmetrically arranged sigilliform impressions with the same microscopic tessellated cuticular structure as the 4 large sigillae.

The genus, with regard to the discrepancy of form and size in the sexes, agrees more with *Argyope*, *Cyrtophora*, *Caerostris* and *Gasteracantha* than with *Araneus*, the shape of the male abdomen not differing greatly from that of the female (more elongate) and resembling in general that of a small female of *Cyrtophora*. The male also differing from most species of *Araneus* in having no spines or processes on the two anterior coxae and in the tibia of leg II not being incrassate or armed with enlarged spines or strong teeth.

The genus can perhaps be further distinguished by the dense coating of coarse hairs which covers the whole of the ventral surface (abdomen and prosoma) in the female.

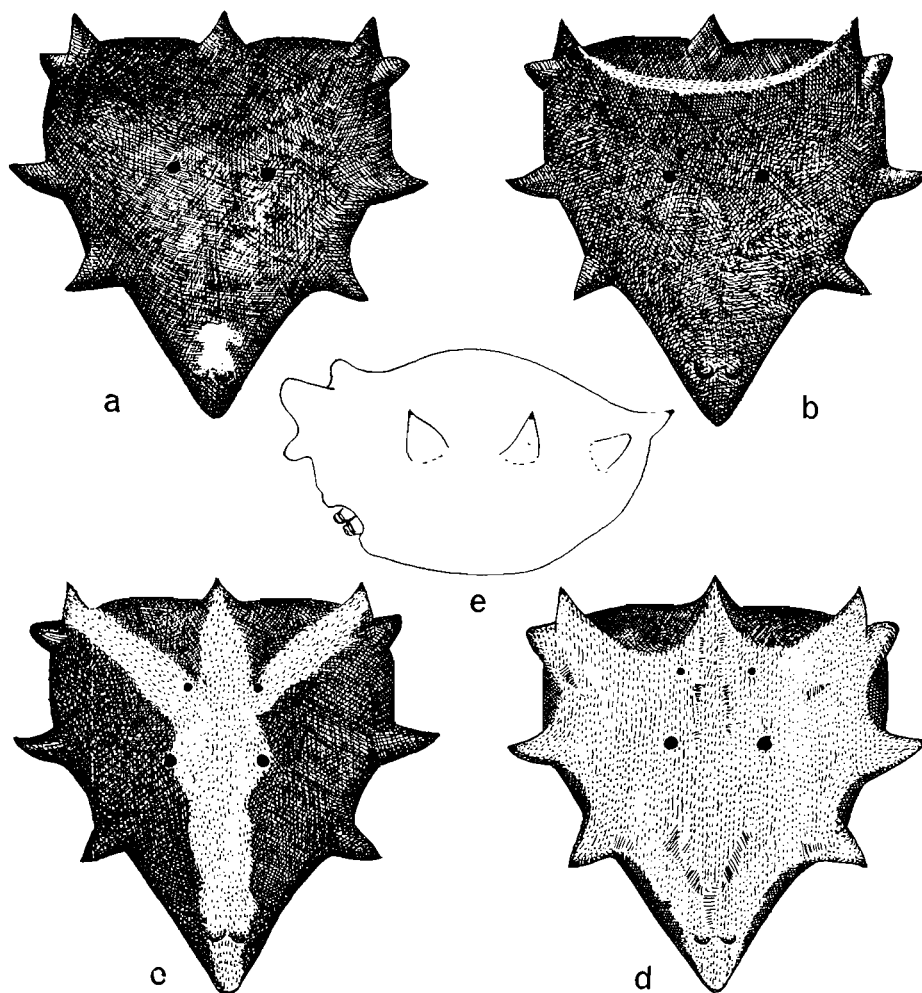
Type species: Megaraneus campbelli n. sp.

***Megaraneus campbelli* n.sp.**

Holotype: 1 ♀, in dune forest, eastern shore of Lake Sibayi, July, 1967, collected I.D.J. Jones, Dep. of Botany, Rhodes University, Grahamstown; allotype ♂ from the same locality, Jan., 1968, collected R.F. Lawrence. Paratypes, 11 ♀♀, 1 ♂ with the same data as the ♂ allotype.

♀. *Colour* in general blackish brown, cephalic part of carapace lighter, sometimes reddish, eye tubercles partly reddish, in some specimens a dark reddish spot above the posterior median tubercle of abdomen; some golden hairs on lateral and anterior margins of carapace and anterior surface of chelicerae. Abdomen dorsally with a variable pattern of yellowish markings on a black background but more often a uniform deep black; the variations with yellow markings (consisting of yellow or red mixed with white hairs) as follows: a narrow procurved stripe the entire width of abdomen between the anterior lateral tubercles, fig. 1*b*; a large Y-shaped marking in middle of dorsal surface, the wide arms of the Y reaching the anterior lateral tubercles, between them a short projection of the median arm, its pointed apex reaching the anterior margin of the abdomen, fig. 1*c*; a third variation with almost the entire dorsal surface covered with an irregular yellowish marking, fig. 1*d*; the type with two indistinct dull red markings, one irregular, moderate sized, behind the anterior median tubercle, the second more elongate, broken up, reaching from just behind the anterior marking to the posterior median tubercle, fig. 1*a*; these colour variations resembling those occurring in *Caerostris sexcupidata*.

Whole of ventral surface of abdomen except at periphery covered with golden hairs except the lung books and a broad transverse band below the epigastric fold, these black, spinners black; sternum blackish brown, a foliaceous marking in the middle reddish or



Text-fig. 1. *Megaraneus campbelli* n. genus et. sp. ♀. *a - d*, four pattern variations of the dorsum of abdomen; *a*, the prevalent uniformly dark colouration as in the type, an indistinct reddish marking above the posterior median tubercle; *b - d*, three variations with a yellow brown marking on a blackish background, *e*, outline of abdomen in lateral view to show the arrangement of the tubercles.

yellow, whole of sternum, coxae and most of trochanters of legs with coarse golden hairs, lateral halves of maxillae and base of labium with similar hairs.

Legs black but femora ventrally with some golden hairs; anterior legs with a broad white band in middle of metatarsi, twice as wide as a similar band on tibia which is more distinct on ventral than on dorsal surface; patella with a few mixed white and golden hairs; posterior legs with white bands as in anterior legs but that of metatarsus IV much wider, subbasal, that of tibia only visible ventrally; bands of leg III narrow and indistinct. Pedipalps with black hairs and setae, a few golden ones intermixed with them.

Carapace in general slightly convex but cephalic portion transversely flattened, not much raised above the thoracic portion; cephalic portion finely granular, thoracic portion almost smooth.

Chelicerae shiny, very smooth and roundly inflated anteriorly; inferior margin with 3, superior with 4 powerful triangular teeth.

Eyes: Seen from above both rows moderately recurved; laterals subequal or anteriors a little larger, lateral tubercle distinct, most prominent above the anterior lateral; anterior medians twice as large as posterior medians, median quadrangle distinctly wider in front than behind, about as long as posteriorly wide.

Abdomen: Dorsum with about 50 small but distinct, smooth, round pitlike sigilliform impressions arranged symmetrically; tubercles as in figs. 1a-e, 8 in number, the anterior of the 3 large subequal lateral tubercles bilobed; the posterior median tubercle trilobed, seen in profile the middle lobe much the largest, then the inferior one, the superior smallest and subdivided into two small round lobes.

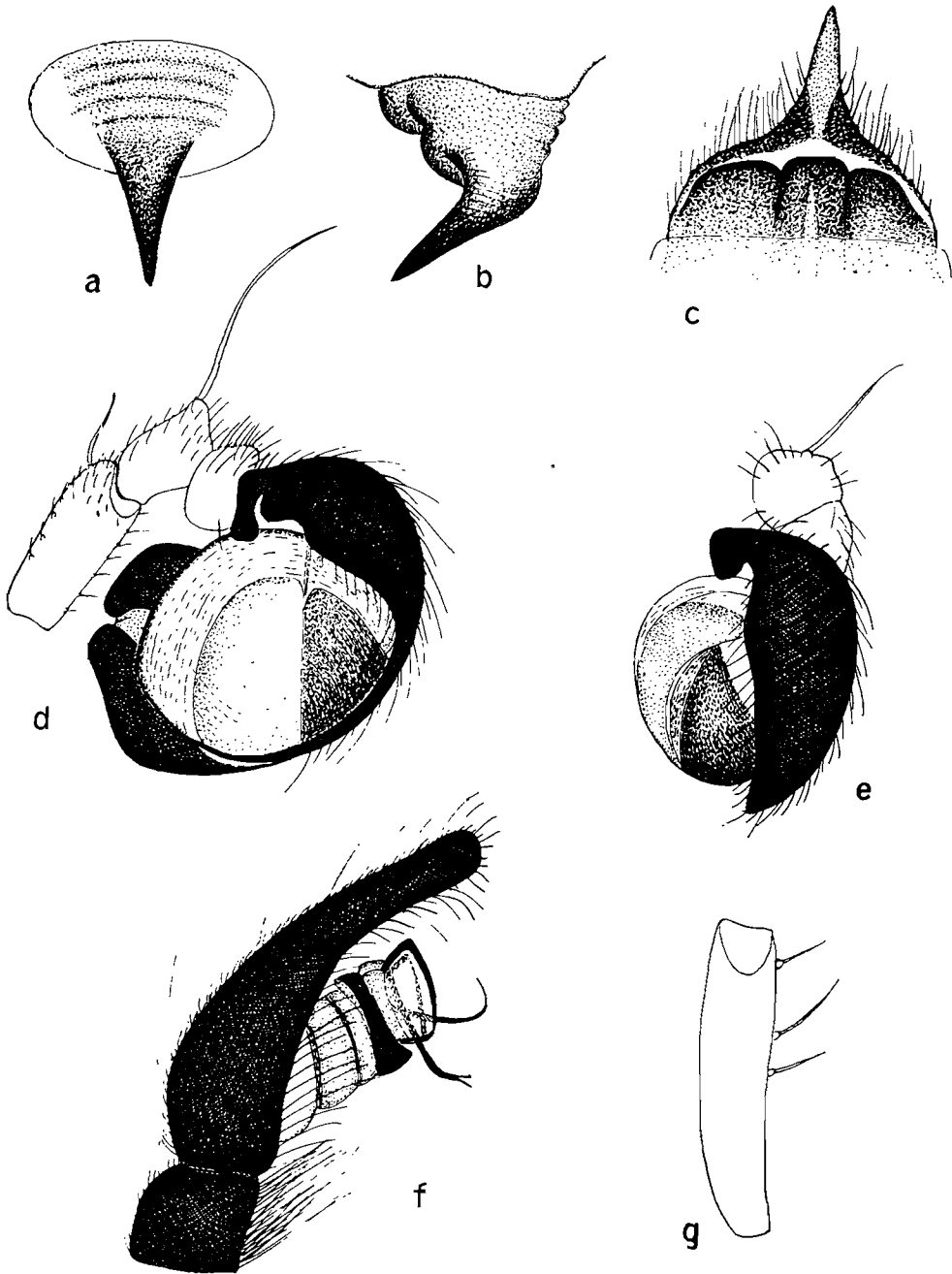
Vulva as in fig. 2a seen from above, fig. 2b seen from the side. Both when viewed from below and from the side, the crochet strongly narrowed distally, its apex pointed like the beak of a bird, raised well above the level of the abdomen and directed posteriorly and ventrally; area beneath the crochet as in fig. 2c seen from below.

Legs: I distinctly shorter than IV; IV, I, II, III. Tibiae and patella slightly flattened dorso-ventrally, especially in the anterior legs; patellae above flat or even with a shallow depression, tibiae seen from the side sigmoid, the segment thicker at both apices than in the middle; remaining segments normal. Femur I with a few setose spines on anterior surface in its distal half; tibiae with 7-8 pairs of distinct ventral spines, metatarsus with similar but less regular rows of spines partly hidden by bristles; tibia II with two rows of 5-6 irregularly paired, almost prone spines; posterior tibiae and metatarsi with similar but much less regular spines.

Dimensions: Total length 31 mm.; carapace 11.6; abdomen 21.6 long, greatest width 21.4; total length of 11 adult female specimens ranges from 15.5 to 29 mm.

♂. *Colour*: Carapace reddish to dark brown, the cephalic portion, especially behind the median eyes, fairly thickly covered with coarse golden hairs; abdomen dorsally much lighter yellow brown, variegated with darker spots and blotches, covered with mixed dark and golden hairs; ventral surface with a large trapezoid marking in the middle, darker than the periphery but also mottled; sternum light reddish brown with some small irregular light spots in the middle, coxae reddish brown to yellow, both sternum and coxae with sparse yellow hairs. Femora of legs ventrally with sparse yellow hairs, more so basally, femora dark with a wide light reddish basal band, tibiae with 2 narrow light bands alternating with 3 darker ones, metatarsi similar but the distal of the two light bands much wider, tarsi reddish brown with a light basal band; posterior legs with similar markings on femora, the basal light band yellow, contrasting more strongly with the dark distal bands, tibiae and metatarsi with indistinct light and dark annulations. Pedipalps reddish brown to blackish.

Carapace as in the ♀ but the cephalic less raised above the thoracic portion; eyes as in the ♀ but the anterior medians nearer the edge of the clypeus; anterior medians larger



Text-fig. 2. *Megaraneus campbelli* n. genus et sp. *a* - *c*, vulva of ♀, seen from above, the side and below respectively; *d*, pedipalp of ♂, in lateral view, and *e*, from directly above; *g*, femur of leg I of ♂, ventral view. *Paradonea striatipes* n. genus et sp. ♂: *f*, pedipalp of ♂, lateral view.

compared with the posteriors than in the ♀, median quadrangle longer than posteriorly wide.

Abdomen with the two lobes of the anterior lateral tubercle widely separated, the anterior median tubercle projecting far forwards beyond the level of the anterior lateral tubercles; the inferior of the three lobes forming the posterior median tubercle the smallest, the middle and superior subequal; tubercles of the abdomen in general arranged in a similar manner to those of the ♀.

Legs. Anterior surface of femur I with 2 or 3 strong setiform spines rising from distinct tubercles in distal third, fig. 2g, tibia I with 4 setae along its anterior ventral margin and 1 long basal seta on anterior surface resembling the 2-3 on femur; femur II with 1 or 0 setiform spines on anterior surface, tibia II with about 3 pairs of ventral setae, tarsi and metatarsi of anterior legs unspined but with numerous serially arranged weak bristles; posterior legs irregularly spined.

Pedipalp. Femur, patella and tibia approximately equal in length and thickness, tarsus very much enlarged, about 3 times as wide as preceding segments; patella at dorsal apex with a long, strong sinuous seta, a much shorter one at distal apex of femur, fig. 2e seen from above, fig. 2d from outer side.

Dimensions: Length of Carapace 3, of abdomen 3.8, total length 6.3 mm. Total length of paratype ♂, 5.6 mm.

There is a much greater discrepancy of size in the male and female than in the case of *Caerostris* but the male agrees with this genus rather than with *Nephila* and *Argyope* in not having the legs elongate and attenuated. The general shape and structure of the abdomen does not differ as much from the female as in many Argypid spiders and the male could be described as having the same form as the female while being greatly reduced in size.

The species appears to come within Simon's Series I of *Araneus* in regard to the eye characters; it differs, however, in other respects and the series apparently does not include any species of comparable size. I have been unable to locate any of the species which Simon in his monograph (1892-1903, p. 800) assigns to the west coast of Africa and which he says are all of large size. In the large tubercles of the abdomen the species may also resemble certain South American species such as *A. tabula* and *A. acutus* which Simon places in his fourth series (*loc. cit.* p. 815).

OBSERVATIONS ON THE ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION OF

MEGARANEUS CAMPBELLI

Occurrence. As far as is known no species allied to the genus *Araneus* of this unusual form and size has been described from southern Africa and it thus is known only from the narrow belt of thick dune forest which skirts the eastern shore of Lake Sibayi.

This forest, which has been briefly described by Acocks (1953, p. 27) and Tinley (1958), occupies a ridge of dunes about 450 feet in maximum height; it is of unusual interest since more of it survives in its original form than any of the other forest types of southern Africa; it is thickest on the landward side of the dunes where trees of 50-55 feet in height are not uncommon, the seaward side of the forest being much more stunted and more open in character.

Indicator trees of this forest according to Acocks are *Mimusops caffra* and *Allophylus natalensis*, other large trees being *Ficus Burt-Davyi*, *Trichilia emetica*, *Euclea natalensis* and the Rhodesian mahogany *Azelia cuanzensis*. The Argyopid "bark spider", *Caerostris sexcupidata*, spins its large web between these tall trees, often as high as 20 feet above ground level so that it appears to be floating in air; by contrast *Megaraneus campbelli*, though in general appearance somewhat similar to *Caerostris* and of comparable size, never makes a web at this height. It was almost always associated with the herbaceous plant *Isoglossa woodii* which forms a thick, closely grown layer on the forest floor with a uniform height of 8-10 feet; the moderately large web was thus often observed at 4-7 feet from the ground among bushes of this plant.

The spider was found not to live in vegetation types outside this forest, such as the Umdoni veld characterized by the dominant Umdoni tree (*Syzygium cordatum*); this type of open woodland which occurs in places between the lake margin and the dune forest is characterised by scattered Umdoni trees interspersed with a scrub of grass, bushes and reeds.

The web, though smaller than that of *Caerostris sexcupidata* the web can be described as large and coarsely constructed, in general resembling that of some of the larger species of *Araneus*; there are 25-30 radii; the outer portion of the web consists of about 25 viscid spirals, the free zone rather narrow and the hub composed of a fairly small, more or less rounded area composed of threads spun irregularly and at random; there is no stabilimentum. The general structure of the spirals can be described as untidy or unfinished, or at least as irregular. The connecting line emanates from near the upper margin of the almost vertical web, the female spider being usually concealed beneath a leaf or between two loosely connected leaves of *Isoglossa woodii*, with its head pointed diagonally downward towards the web, the first leg resting on the connecting line; less often the spider is found in the web itself; its movements appear to be somewhat sluggish when compared with those of other Argyopid genera.

Renewal of the web was only observed once at dusk between 6 and 6.30 p.m.

The male was not seen in the web itself as in so many species of *Argyope* and *Nephila* but lies hidden like the female at the side of the web, resting beneath a leaf or concealed against the rough surface of a twig; usually only one male was found with each web.

Distribution: The species does not seem to occur elsewhere in Southern Africa than in this particular shady and thickly grown forest of Zululand. It should however be found further north in tropical East Africa and perhaps also in West Africa; the locality which it occupies in southern Africa may represent an outlier, the southern limit of what is more typically a tropical species in the same way that specimens of the tropical Gaboon adder are found in northern Zululand. The latter is also an inhabitant of closed rain forest rather than open forest or savannah and Tinley (1958, p. 24) states that it is common in the dune forest at Lake Sibayi.

Dedication: This handsome and unusual spider is named in honour of Dr. George Campbell, Chancellor of the University of Natal and Chairman of the Natal branch of the Royal Society of South Africa.

Above and beyond the demands of his calling Dr. George has for many years been the friend of science and the arts in Natal, giving his enthusiastic and generous support to many fields of scientific endeavour, preeminent among them the conservation of the wild life of Natal and Zululand.

Family *ERESIDAE*

Paradonea n. genus

The ocular quadrangle resembles that of *Stegodyphus* rather than *Adonea* but the posterior laterals are even nearer the median quadrilateral than in that genus. The anterior laterals resemble *Stegodyphus* in being placed on distinct tubercles and these eyes are distinctly larger than in *Eresus* or *Dresserus*, while the tubercles are much larger and more prominent than in *Stegodyphus*.

The median eyes resemble *Eresus* in the posteriors being well separated but the size of the posterior relative to the anterior eyes approximates more to that of *Adonea*, the posteriors being even more than 6 times as large as the anteriors rather than 3 times (*Eresus*).

The cephalic part of the cephalothorax is well raised above the thoracic part but much less than perpendicular to it; it is higher than in *Stegodyphus* but much less so than in *Adonea*, especially *A. fimbriata*; it certainly does not project backwards as in *fimbriata*.

The anterior legs longer than the posterior, the first pair being much longer than the others with the femur, patella and tibia slightly incrassate; tibia of leg I somewhat curved, its ventral surface with a distinct brush of longer black hairs along its entire length. In the enlargement of leg I the genus differs from *Adonea* but resembles *Stegodyphus*.

The size of this spider appears to be distinctly greater than in either *Seothyra* Purcell or *Stegodyphus* (except *S. canus* and *tentoriicola* Purcell) but approximates to that of *Adonea* in the species *fimbriata* Simon and *variegata* Purcell, though much larger than *parva* Tucker which is only 6.5 mm. in total length.

Type: Paradonea striatipes n.sp.

In my opinion the unique and peculiar species *fimbriata* Simon (1873) from North Africa should be retained in the genus *Adonea*; this species differs from any other in the enormously elevated cephalic region, the posterior border of which actually projects backwards, a feature not found in any of the South African species; *A. variegata* Purcell (1904) and *parva* Tucker (1920) would probably be better accommodated in the genus *Paradonea* with *striatipes* n.sp. *Adonea splendens* Lawrence (1937, p. 146) from the Kalahari should probably also be included in this genus; it resembles *striatipes* in its deep black background colouring, differing in the details of its white pattern markings, disposition of the eyes and smaller size.

Paradonea striatipes n.sp.

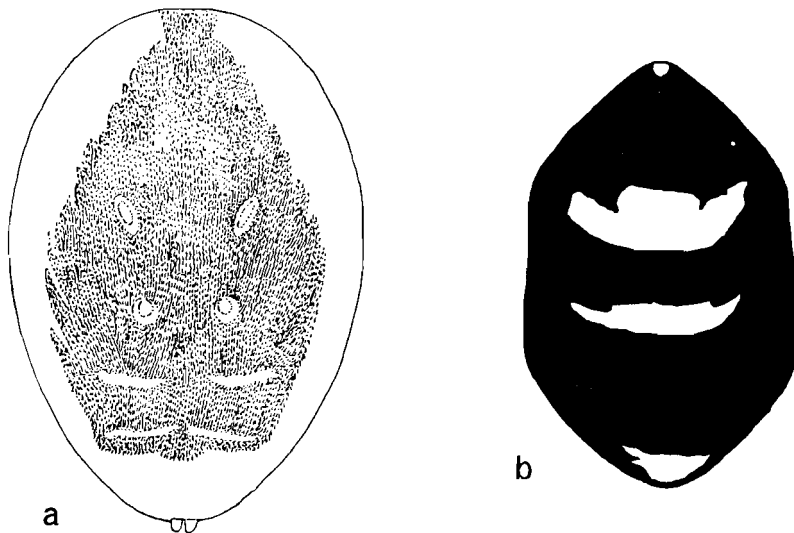
Holotype, 1 ♂, (Transvaal Museum No., T. 639), collected at Runtu on the Okavango river, north-east border of S.W. Africa, collected by J. L. Sheasby, 24:IV:1967.

Colour. The whole animal jet black with white ornamentation.

Lateral margins of cephalothorax with a fairly wide white band not meeting posteriorly and reaching to the antero-lateral angle of carapace; a short white longitudinal stripe

between the anterior median eyes; clypeus and whole of chelicerae except at their apices white; sternum, mouthparts and bases of coxae I-IV covered with white hairs; sternum with 3 round black spots, 2 lateral opposite the junctions of coxae I and II, the third near the posterior apex, these spots covered with black spiniform setae.

Abdomen dorsally with markings as in fig. 3b; ventrally with a transverse white stripe below epigastric furrow; inferior spinners with a white spot. Femur, tibia, patella and most of metatarsus of legs II - IV with a well marked narrow dorsal white stripe, remaining segments with some large white spots. Leg I dorsally with a white apical spot on femur, patella, tibia and metatarsus; all legs ventrally for the most part black, but



Text-fig. 3. Colour pattern of dorsum of abdomen of *a*, *Adonea fimbriata* Simon, ♂, *b*, *Paradonea striatipes* n.sp. ♂. The background colour is brown in *fimbriata*, black in *striatipes*, with snow-white markings in both species.

femora at extreme base with 1 or 2 small indistinct white spots. Pedipalp with a white dorsal marking on all the segments.

Eyes. Posterior medians very large, more than 6 times as large as anterior medians, a little less than their own diameter apart, their diameter equal to anterior width of the quadrangle; anterior medians very small, about twice their own diameter apart; posterior medians about $1\frac{3}{4}$ their diameter from edge of clypeus. Anterior laterals situated on a large shiny projecting tubercle, much larger than the anterior medians but a little smaller than posterior laterals; ocular quadrangle much narrower posteriorly, the posterior laterals and medians forming a semicircular recurved line, the laterals separated from the medians by less ($\frac{2}{3}$ ths) the diameter of the latter.

Chelicerae with the inner apex angular or subspiniform, but directed inwards not upwards.

Pedipalp. Tarsal organ, fig. 2f, with the same general plan as in most genera of Eresidae, the tarsus much hollowed out and flattened, much longer than patella and tibia combined.

patella with a tuft of hairs ventrally; femur with a fringe of black hairs arranged in a fairly regular though not dense ventral series.

Legs. Femur, patella and tibia of leg I slightly incrassate, the tibia slightly bent upwards, its ventral surface with a brush of somewhat longer hairs than in the remaining legs, the anterior legs, especially I, much longer than the posterior ones; tarsi and metatarsi of anterior legs with a weak scopula which is stronger in the posterior legs.

Dimensions. Cephalothorax 7, abdomen 6.5, total length 11.5 mm.

Remarks. The white hairs are more or less incrassate and short while the black ones are much more slender and longer, those of the cephalic portion of cephalothorax and the sternum being long, setiform and rising from enlarged bases.

A synopsis of the differences, chiefly in colour pattern, between the North African and South West African forms of Adonea (males).

Adonea fimbriata Simon.

(Algeria and Tunisia).

Colour brown, the abdomen with white markings as in fig. 3(a); cephalothorax and legs with white spots; anterior margin of carapace and chelicerae brown; Sternum and mouthparts brown without white hairs; ventral surface of abdomen with a narrow transverse white stripe just below the epigastric furrow, a white comma-shaped marking laterally to the lung-books, a much shorter transverse white stripe just above the cribellum.

Eyes. Anterior laterals not set on tubercles.

Legs. Anterior not much longer than the posterior legs.

Dimensions. Total length 13 mm; abdomen (7.7) longer than cephalothorax (7).

Paradonea striatipes n.sp.

(South West Africa).

Colour black, abdomen with white markings as in fig. 3(b); cephalothorax without spots but with wide white marginal lateral bands; legs II-IV with a narrow dorsal white stripe except on tarsi, leg I dorsally with white spots; anterior margin of clypeus and whole of chelicerae except at apices, white; sternum, mouth parts and bases of coxae of legs covered with white hairs; ventral surface of abdomen with a transverse white stripe below the epigastric furrow, inferior spinners with a white spot.

Eyes. Anterior lateral eyes set on fairly large, prominent tubercles.

Legs. Leg I slightly incrassate, the anterior much longer than the posterior legs.

Dimensions. Total length 11.5 mm; abdomen (6.5) shorter than cephalothorax (7).

Family THOMISIDAE

Genus *Platythomisus* Dolesch

Platythomisus jubbi n.sp.

Holotype 1♀, Kenton-on-Sea, East Cape, collected by A. O. Alcock, December, 1966.

Colour. Pattern of markings as in fig. 4a; cephalothorax orange to yellow with a greenish tinge; dorsum of abdomen with a background of white to cream with a greenish tinge, an anterior marginal band and four pairs of lateral subtriangular markings orange; mandibles orange to light brown. Ventral surface of prosoma yellow, sternum with a diffuse darkened lanceolate median marking, anterior to it an ill defined darkish rounded marking; mouthparts yellowish with some diffuse darker markings; ventral surface of abdomen almost entirely blackish, lateral margins with a series of narrow yellow stripes parallel to the

outline of the abdomen, some similar transverse recurved ones anterior to the spinners; in front of these 2 or 3 pairs of round whitish spots (very indistinct in the type).

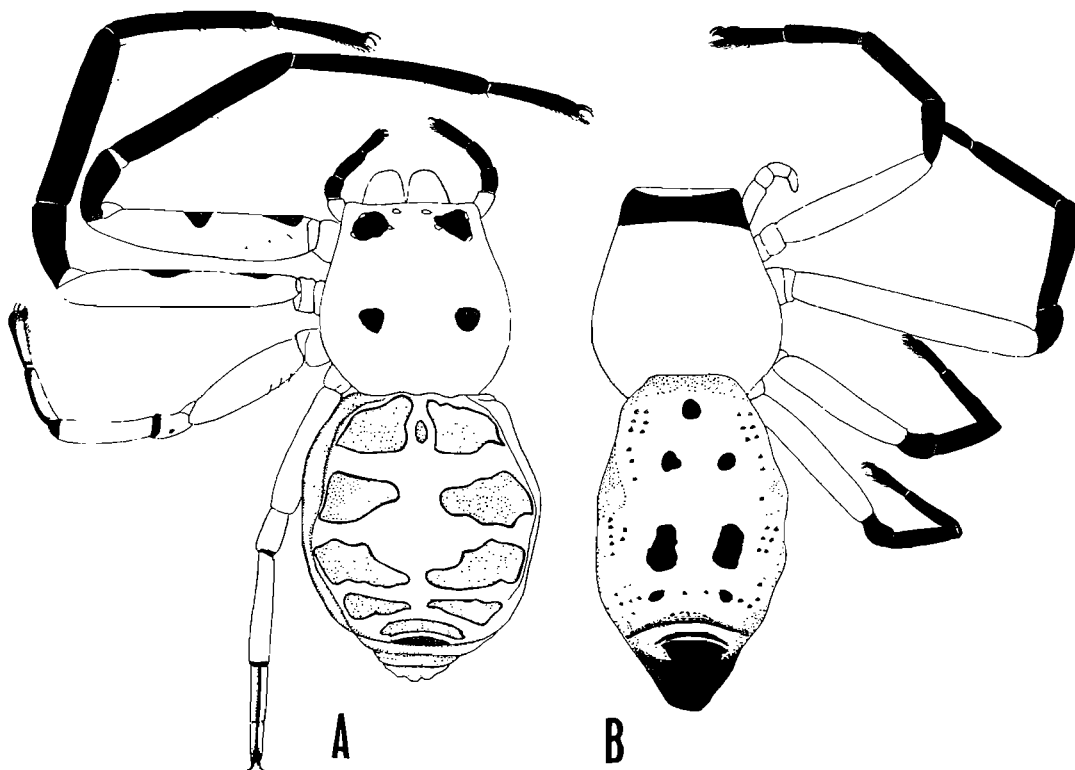
Pedipalps yellow, legs with femora orange, patellae to tarsi of all legs deep black with a metallic sheen.

Eyes. Both rows almost straight, the posterior row wider than the anterior by a little less than the diameter of an anterior lateral eye; anterior laterals $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as the medians, medians a very little further from each other than from a lateral on each side; posterior laterals distinctly larger than medians, medians about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as far from each other as from a lateral on each side; median quadrangle three times as wide posteriorly as long, distinctly narrower in front than behind but anterior width about twice the length; anterior distinctly larger than posterior medians; an anterior median as far from the edge of the clypeus as from a posterior median.

Legs. Tibiae and metatarsi of anterior legs with a few pairs of minute, weak, very short spines.

Dimensions: Cephalothorax 5.7, abdomen 8.2, leg 1.20, total length 13 mm.

In the colour transparency from which the drawing of the type was made femur of leg I appears to be considerably shorter than that of II; in the type specimen however the first leg



Text-fig. 4. A, Colour pattern of *Platythomisus jubbi* n.sp. ♂; B, the same of *Platythomisus sibaius* n.sp. ♂. The stippled markings of the abdomen orange in *P. jubbi*, maroon in *P. sibaius*.

is missing on one side but on the other the femora of the two anterior legs are subequal; the whole of leg II is a little longer than I and both much longer than the posterior pairs, IV a little longer than III.

The species is named in honour of Mr. Rex Jubb, the South African authority on freshwater fish.

***Platythomisus sibayius* n.sp.**

Holotype 1♀, eastern shore of Lake Sibayi, between the leaves of a small tree, collected at night, R. F. Lawrence and B. Lamoral, 26th June, 1967.

Colour. Pattern of markings as in fig. 4a; cephalothorax orange, patella, tibia and tarsus of pedipalp black, remaining segments similar to femora of legs, these cream to orange, lighter than the cephalothorax; dorsal surface of abdomen light yellow or cream, the large symmetrical markings maroon narrowly edged with black; ventral surface with prosomal portion yellow, no darker markings, abdomen similar in colour to dorsal surface, a large black triquetrous marking above the spinners, its apex directed towards them; ventro-lateral margins strongly wrinkled, with deep sinuous grooves, on each side 4 pairs of irregularly shaped black spots, the last (most posterior) opposite the spinners; some less strongly marked transverse folds between the epigastric groove and the black triquetrous marking and 5 pairs of small brown spots occupying this area.

Eyes. Anterior row almost straight, equidistant, the laterals almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as the medians, posterior row very slightly recurved, the medians about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as far from each other as from a lateral, the medians small, about half as large as the laterals; median quadrangle narrower in front than behind, the posterior distinctly smaller than the anterior median eyes; anterior medians about as far from the edge of clypeus as from a posterior median eye.

Legs with a few weak spines on tibiae and metatarsi, tarsi with a brush of black hairs ending in an apical tuft; metatarsi of legs III and IV also with an apical tuft of bristles.

Dimensions. Cephalothorax 4, abdomen 6.5, leg I 16.7, total length 11 mm.

The species has markings very similar to those of *Platythomisus octomaculatus* C. Koch from Java, but differs in the detailed arrangement of these markings, see Simon's figure 1076, p. 1016, *Histoire Naturelle des Araignées*, Vol. 1.

Both *sibayius* and *jubbi* differ from the only other species known from Southern Africa, *P. deserticolus* Lawrence (1936, p.154) described from the Kalahari, in a number of details of colouring and pattern markings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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